



Attorney Docket No. LEAP:126US  
U.S. Patent Application No. 10/721,695  
Reply to Office Action of May 18, 2005  
Date: August 4, 2005

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**What Is Claimed Is:**

1. (cancelled)
2. (currently amended) An apparatus for controlling a microscope stage assembly comprising:  
an upper stage; a slide mount; a rod; and, a releasable attachment means, where said releasable attachment means is arranged to attach said rod to said slide mount, said upper stage is arranged to move in a first direction in response to a movement of said rod in said first direction, and said slide mount is arranged to move in a second direction, orthogonal to said first direction, in response to a movement of said rod in said second direction The apparatus recited in Claim 1 wherein said bidirectional, ergonomic stage movement means comprises a substantially solid, circular rod with releasable attachment means.
3. (currently amended) The apparatus recited in Claim 2 [[1]] wherein said bidirectional, ergonomic stage movement means rod comprises a substantially hollow, circular tube with releasable attachment means.
4. (original) The apparatus recited in Claim 2 wherein said releasable attachment means is selected from a group consisting of a screws, rivets, magnets, adhesive, hook-and-eyes, and sprung detents.
5. (currently amended) The apparatus recited in Claim 2 [[1]] wherein said bidirectional, ergonomic stage movement means rod comprises a distal portion, an intermediate portion and a proximal portion.
6. (currently amended) The apparatus recited in Claim 5 [[1]], wherein said proximal portion is attached to said stage assembly slide mount, said intermediate portion connects said

distal and said proximal portion, and said distal portion is disposed in space substantially perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of said stage assembly.

7. (currently amended) The apparatus recited in Claim 2 [[1]] wherein said ~~bidirectional, ergonomic stage movement means~~ rod further comprises a gripping means operatively arranged to be detachably secured to said ~~bidirectional, ergonomic stage movement means~~ rod.

8. (currently amended) The apparatus recited in Claim [[1]] 2 further comprising:  
a joystick, wherein said releasable attachment means is arranged to attach said joystick to said slide mount ~~wherein said bidirectional, ergonomic stage movement means comprises a joystick.~~

9. (currently amended) The apparatus recited in Claim 2 [[1]] wherein said ~~bidirectional, ergonomic stage movement means~~ rod comprises a ~~rod~~ with a plurality of grooves disposed in space substantially parallel to one another.

10. (currently amended) The apparatus recited in Claim 2 [[1]] wherein said ~~bidirectional, ergonomic stage movement means~~ rod comprises a ~~rod~~ with a plurality of protuberances disposed in space substantially parallel to one another.

11. (currently amended) The apparatus recited in Claim 2 [[1]] wherein said ~~bidirectional, ergonomic stage movement means~~ rod comprises a one-piece, pre-formed substantially solid rod with a releasable attachment means.

12. (original) The apparatus recited in Claim 6, wherein said distal portion comprises a substantially solid, circular pole with a plurality of grooves disposed in space substantially parallel to one another.

13. (original) The apparatus recited in Claim 6, wherein said distal portion comprises a substantially solid, circular pole which tapers at the end.

14. (original) The apparatus recited in Claim 7, wherein said gripping means comprises a substantially hollow tube with a plurality of grooves disposed in space substantially parallel to one another.

15. (currently amended) The apparatus recited in Claim [[7]] 5, wherein said gripping means comprises a substantially square, rotatable plate operatively arranged to be detachably secured to [[a]] said distal portion of said rod stage movement means.

16. (currently amended) A microscope stage movement means comprising:

an upper stage;

a slide mount;

at least one substantially linear, rounded shaft with an attachment end and a gripping end;  
and,

a releasable attachment means, where said releasable attachment means is arranged to releasably attach said shaft to said slide mount, said upper stage is arranged to move in a first direction in response to a movement of said shaft in said first direction, and said slide mount is arranged to move in a second direction, orthogonal to said first direction, in response to a movement of said shaft in said second direction wherein said attachment end is operatively arranged to be detachably secured to a microscope stage assembly.

17. (currently amended) An interchangeable microscope stage movement device for providing X and Y movement of a sample comprising:

a microscope stage assembly; and,

an upper stage;

a slide mount; and,

a joystick detachably secured to said stage assembly slide mount at more than one location of said stage assembly slide mount.

18. (new) The apparatus recited in Claim 2 further comprising:

a slide mount guide fixedly connected to said slide mount, where said releasable attachment means is arranged to attach said rod to said slide mount guide.